



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : 09/690,197  
Applicant : Douglas A. Collins *et al.*  
Filed : October 16, 2000  
TC/A.U. : 1653  
Examiner : David Lukton  
  
Docket No. : 07959.105024  
Customer No. : 20786

Confirmation No. 2254

TECH CENTER 1600/2966  
SEP 02 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of February 21, 2003, for which a response is due on August 21, 2003, with a three month extension of time, please amend the above-referenced application as follows. A Petition for a three month extension of time is enclosed.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins of page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 16 of this paper.



### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this Response to Office Action along with any documents referred to as attached therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hoang M. Vo".

Hoang M. Vo  
Reg. No. 47,158

Date: August 21, 2003